

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08946 071245Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----095144 080429Z /11

R 071233Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6883
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08946

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UK NATO MPOL MILI

SUBJECT: RAF FAIRFORD

REF: A) STATE 133908; B) LONDON 8725; C) LONDON 8415

1. WELLBELOVED, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY FOR RAF
(ACCOMPANIED BY NELSON, DUS/AIR, AND OTHER SENIOR MOD
OFFICIALS) INVITED DCM, ACCOMPANIED BY POL-MIL ATTACHE,
COMMANDER 3RD AIR FORCE AND DATT, TO A MEETING ON 5
JUNE TO DISCUSS MOD DECISION CONCERNING RAF FAIRFORD.
WELLBELOVED CONFIRMED DECISION NOTED REFTEL C, STRESSING
MOD'S DESIRE TO MOVE FORWARD ON THIS MATTER ASAP. HE
EXPECTS TO MAKE PUBLIC THE DECISION NLT THE WEEK OF
12-16 JUNE. MOD OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE A FAIR AMOUNT OF
FLACK FROM OPPONENTS BUT ARGUE THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE
TO HANDLE THE OUTCRY FROM LOCAL CONSTITUENTS AND HMG
WILL RIDE OUT THE STORM. TWELVE MPS ARE DUE TO PROTEST
TO MULLEY AGAINST A FAIRFORD DECISION--BUT AS FAIRFORD
IS AN RAF STATION, WHITEHALL WILL HEAR THE PROTEST
OUT AND THEN PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT THE DECISION. AS
EXPLAINED TO US, BECAUSE FAIRFORD IS AN RAF STATION
ALREADY, MOD IS NOT OBLIGED TO SEEK PLANNING AGREEMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 08946 071245Z

FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ABOVE, BRITISH STRESS THE
IMPORTANCE OF STARTING CONVERSION WORK TO MAKE
FAIRFORD READY FOR THE TANKERS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE
AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

3. WELLBELOVED FLAGGED WHITEHALL CONCERN ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH USAF WISHES TO USE RED HORSE CAPABILITIES (REFTEL A). HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT "CANNOT GO PUBLIC" ON THE FAIRFORD DECISION UNTIL HMG IS ASSURED THAT WE DO NOT PLAN TO EMPLOY RED HORSE EXTENSIVELY. THE BRITISH POINT OUT THAT AGREEMENT VIS-A-VIS USE OF RED HORSE FOR RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN NEGOTIATED BETWEEN USAF AND PSA AND OUR PROPOSAL TO USE RED HORSE FOR FAIRFORD "CUTS ACROSS" THE PRINCIPLES ALREADY AGREED TO. IT WAS DECIDED THAT AN EARLY MEETING SHOULD BE HELD TO SORT OUT THE DETAILS.

4. FACER, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO MULLEY, IN A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH POL-MIL ATTACHE INFORMED US THAT MULLEY AND WELLBELOVED HAVE GONE OVER STATE OF PLAY VIS-A-VIS FAIRFORD. THEY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WHILE HMG'S ABILITY TO DELIVER ON FAIRFORD IS NOT IN QUESTION, LOCAL OPPOSITION WILL BE VOCAL AND COULD BE "MESSY." HENCE, MULLEY WANTS ALL THE HELP HE CAN MUSTER--AND THIS MEANS HE NEEDS TO MAKE AS POSITIVE A CASE AS HE CAN FOR THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE TANKER DEPLOYMENT. FACER OPINED THAT EXTENSIVE USE OF RED HORSE "IS NOT ON." HE SAID WHILE MINISTERS REGRET THAT FAIRFORD IS A MORE COSTLY SOLUTION THAN GREENHAM COMMON, THE ENVIRONMENTAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 08946 071245Z

FACTORS OF THE DEPLOYMENT TO FAIRFORD "ARE MUCH THE SAME" AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL WANT TO USE THE ARGUMENT OF "ECONOMIC BENEFITS AS OFFSET. THAT MEANS A RESTRICTED USE OF RED HORSE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY THERE IS SOME ROOM FOR NEGOTIATION ON RED HORSE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE BRITISH ARE IN A POSITION TO CONCEDE MUCH ON THE PRINCIPLES ALREADY AGREED TO VIS-A-VIS RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR. OUR MOST EFFECTIVE GAMBIT PROBABLY IS TO ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE FOR A FAST OCCUPANCY OF FAIRFORD--AT A RATE BEYOND PSA'S CAPACITY TO DO THE WORK "IN TIME."
BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON08946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780239-0040
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780687/aaaacwnt.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f83c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 133908, 78 LONDON 8725, 78 LONDON 8415
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2457148
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAF FAIRFORD
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, UK, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f83c5e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014